

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STUDENT ELECTIONS AT THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY

REF: ATHENS 8112, ATHENS 8079

1. SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 12 THESSALONIKI PRESS CARRIED FIRST COMPLETE DETAILS OF STUDENT ELECTIONS WHICH CONDUCTED PEACEFULLY NOVEMBER 9 AT ALL THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY FACULTIES, EXCEPT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY WHERE PREPARATIONS NOT COMPLETED. RESULT OF VOTE BY APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ACCORDING "MAKEDONIA" (PRO-CU & PASOK) WAS 27 PERCENT VICTORY FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF PAPANDREOU'S PASOK PARTY, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY 25 PERCENT FOR PRO-CARAMANLIS STUDENT GROUP AND 19 PERCENT FOR KKE-EXTERIOR WING. CU STUDENT PARTY LAGGED WELL BEHIND WITH 8 PERCENT. REMAINDER OF VOTE PRIMARILY SHARED BY OTHER COMMUNIST AND RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS. NOTE: ALTHOUGH ABOVE FIGURES CONSIDERED MOST RELIABLE, PRESS DIFFERS ON EXAM PERCENTAGES WITH "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" (PRO-ND & RIGHT) ATTRIBUTING 29 PERCENT VICTORY TO PRO-CARAMANLIS STUDENTS OVER 27 PERCENT FOR PASOK. END SUMMARY.

2. THESSALONIKI PAPERS NOVEMBER 12 CARRY FIRST COMPLETE

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REPORTS ON LOCAL STUDENT ELECTIONS IN WHICH ABOUT 6000

OF APPROX 30,000 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED (EXCLUDING FIRST YEAR STUDENTS). VOTER TURNOUT VARIED BY FACULTY FROM LOW OF 10 PERCENT IN LAW SCHOOL TO 51 PERCENT AT POLYTECHNIC.

3. MAJOR GROUPS CONTESTING ELECTIONS ON CAMPUS WERE YOUTH FORMATIONS OF NEW DEMOCRACY, CENTER UNION, PASOK, KKE-EXTERIOR, KKE-INTERIOR, AND FIVE ADDITIONAL LEFT WING PARTIES INCLUDING TWO SELF-STYLED MAOIST FACTIONS.

4. OF TOTAL 108 STUDENT COUNCIL SEATS (EXCLUDING THEOLOGY SCHOOL), PASOK PARTY'S PANHELLENIC STUDENT STRUGGLE FRONT (PASP) WON 29 SEATS (27 PERCENT), PRO-CARAMANLIS NEW DEMOCRATIC STUDENT MOVEMENT (NDFK) 27 SEATS (25 PERCENT), KKE-INTERIOR'S DEMOCRATIC SYNDICALISTIC MOVEMENT (DISYA/RIGAS FEREOS) 25 SEATS (23 PERCENT), KKE-EXTERIOR'S PAN-STUDENT SYNDICALISTIC MOVEMENT (PSP) 9 SEATS (8 PERCENT), AND CENTER UNION'S DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT STUDENT MOVEMENT (DEFK) 9 SEATS (8 PERCENT). OF REMAINING SEATS, FIVE TAKEN BY TWO MAOIST GROUPS AND FOUR WON BY INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

5. COMMENT: WHILE STRONG SHOWING BY PAPANDREOU STUDENT GROUP GENERALLY PREDICTED, LOCAL PROFESSORS ARE ENCOURAGED BY SIZEABLE CARAMANLIS VOTE ON CAMPUS. "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF NOVEMBER 12 NOTES THAT MANY STUDENTS FROM OUTLYING AREAS NOT YET ON CAMPUS AND HAD THEY BEEN, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONSERVATIVE VOTE WOULD HAVE BEEN HIGHER.

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